

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01 /089 W

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R 140729Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4066

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 5195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP/UR

SUBJECT: GOP-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: MANILA 4656

1. ON APRIL 13 PRESIDENT MARCOS MET WITH VLADIMIR KUDRYAVTSEV, DEPUTY OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE USSR/PHILIPPINE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY AND ANDREI LEDOVSKY, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRAESIDIUM OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIETIES FOR FRIENDSHIP AND CULTURAL RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE (PNA) ACCOUNT, KUDRYAVTSEV TOLD PRESIDENT MARCOS RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ARE ANTICIPATING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT WITH DEEP INTEREST AND THAT HIS TRIP WOULD STIMULATE CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND PHILIPPINES. KUDRYAVTSEV ALSO SAID SOVIETS SUPPORTED EFFORTS OF SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO PNA, MARCOS TOLD SOVIET VISITORS HOW GRATEFUL HE WAS FOR HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO MRS. MARCOS (WHO WAS PRESENT DURING SOVIET VISITORS CALL) DURING HER VISIT TO MOSCOW IN 1974. PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL MERELY BE

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FORMAL CONFIRMATION OF FRIENDSHIP ALREADY EXISTING

BETWEEN PHILIPPINES AND SOVIET UNION. MARCOS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SOVIETS WOULD SUPPORT ASEAN "DREAM" OF ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN THE REGION. PNA REPORTS SOVIET VISITORS "SUPPORTED" THIS ASPIRATION AND THIS WAS HEADLINE OF FRONT PAGE STORIES ON VISIT CARRIED IN TWO OF THE THREE MANILA MORNING DAILIES ON APRIL 14.

3. SOVIET DELEGATION, WHICH ARRIVED IN MANILA APRIL 10, IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART APRIL 16 ENROUTE OTHER SEA CAPITALS. LOCAL TASS AND PRAVDA CORRESPONDENTS ACCOMPANIED SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES TO MALACANANG MEETING. GOP SIDE, IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS, INCLUDED LABOR SECRETARY OPLE (PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE/SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY), MRS. CARMEN CUERRERO-NKPIL (ONE OF MRS. MARCOS' IN-HOUSE INTELLECTUALS), AND FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY S.P. LOPEZ (WHO WAS REPORTEDLY LEADING CANDIDATE FOR MOSCOW EMBASSY BEFORE HE FELL AFOUL OF MARCOS BY GIVING ANTI-MARTIAL LAW SPEECH AT UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IN LATE 1974).

4. COMMENT: VISIT OF SOVIET GOODWILL REPRESENTATIVES IS YET ANOTHER STEP IN CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO PROPERLY SET STAGE FOR PRESIDENT MARCOS' VISIT TO MOSCOW IN LATE MAY. DESPITE INDICATIONS WE HAVE HAD FROM THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF AND HIS ADVANCE MAN, KOKOY ROMUALDEZ, THAT ACTUAL DATE WOULD BE MAY 31, GUIDED PRESS IS STILL BEING CAGEY ABOUT PRECISE TIMING REPORTING PRESIDENT MIGHT VISIT IN LATE MAY OR PERHAPS EARLY JUNE.  
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